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Lyndon B. Johnson

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

This is in response to your memorandum to the Heads of all Executive Departments and Agencies, dated 16 May 1964, concerning the employment of Peace Corps Volunteers by the Federal Government following their service in the Peace Corps.

The Central Intelligence Agency has followed a strict practice of avoiding any contact whatsoever with the Peace Corps. We believe this is essential in order to avoid any implication that the Peace Corps is being used for intelligence purposes. While Communist propagandists will always allege that the Peace Corps is used for intelligence activities, nevertheless I remain determined that no opportunity be afforded them to establish any justification for their allegation.

Further, it would appear equally clear that should the Central Intelligence Agency employ Peace Corps graduates soon after their work with that organization, suspicion might be raised that the individual had always been in intelligence activities. It is therefore my general policy not to employ personnel who have been associated with the Peace Corps until two years after their separation.

Respectfully yours,

John A. McCone
Director

White House

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